

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 /081 W
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R 211415Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5624
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RH
SUBJ: RHODESIA: RICHARD'S NEWS CONFERENCE OF JANUARY 20

1. FOLLOWING ARE QUOTES FROM A RATHER POOR TRANSCRIPT OF
MR. RICHARD'S AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE WHEN HE LEFT CAPE TOWN
FOR SALISBURY ON JANUARY 20, 1977. IN SOME CASES WE HAVE
EDITED OR OMITTED QUESTIONS AND LESS SIGNIFICANT PARTS OF HIS
ANSWERS. THE MATERIAL IS UNCLASSIFIED BUT SHOULD NOT BE
DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE USG OFFICES.

2. "MY TALKS WITH MR. VORSTER WILL PROVE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE
TO ME IN MY DISCUSSIONS IN SALISBURY--AS YOU KNOW WE ARE GOING
TO SALISBURY NOW. I HOPE TO SPEND A FEW DAYS THERE, AFTER
THAT MY ITINERARY IS YET NOT ENTIRELY CERTAIN."

3. "WE'VE GOT FROM THE NATIONALISTS INDICATIONS THAT THE IDEAS
PUT INTO SOMEWHAT MORE CONCRETE FORM, WILL FORM A BASIS FOR
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SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. I HOPE THAT MR. SMITH AND HIS
COLLEAGUES WILL ALSO SEE THIS DOCUMENT AS A BASIS FOR
SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS, BECAUSE IF HE DOES AS WELL, WELL THEN
SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WILL START."

4. "Q: MR. RICHARD, HIS QUESTION OF ASSURANCES--WHAT
SECONDARY ASSURANCES WILL WE HAVE THAT THESE ASSURANCES WILL

IN FACT BE KEPT ONCE AND INTERIM GOVERNMENT COMES INTO EFFECT
--THAT IS TO SAY THAT IF THERE IS A VIOLATION BY ONE PARTY
OR PARTIES OF THESE ASSURANCES WHAT LINE WILL THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT UNDE
TAKE TO ENFORCE THE ISSUE?

"A: ENFORCE THE ISSUE?

"Q: YES.

"A: WELL, YOU MEAN ARE WE PREPARED TO CONTEMPLATE GOING
TO WAR WITH TANZANIA--IF THE GUERRILLA WAR IN RHODESIA DOESN'T
STOP? THE ANSWER TO THAT IS NO.

"Q: NOT NECESSARILY.

"A: THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THIS, THAT WE HAD ASSURANCES
FROM THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS INCLUDING PRESIDENT MACHEL AND
FROM PRESIDENT NYERERE, AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FRONT LINE
PRESIDENTS THAT IT IS THEIR VIEW AND OPINION THAT WHEN AN INTERIM
GOVERNMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES IS SET UP THEN THE WAR
WILL COME TO AN END. NOW IF YOU ARE SAYING TO ME THAT I
SHOULD APPROACH (?) HAT AND THOSE ASSURANCES BY STARTING
OFF THIS (WAY?) IT DOESN'T SEEM TO ME TO BE A VERY SENSIBLE
WAY OF NEGOTIATING. I THINK ON THE FACE OF IT WE HAVE TO
ACCEPT THOSE ASSURANCES FOR WHAT THEY ARE. IT WAS A VERY
CLEAR STATEMENT BY THE HEADS OF STATE OF A NUMBER OF
GOVERNMENTS OF COUNTRIES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN (RETURNING?)
TO THE TALKS."

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TM ZQ: THE RHODESIAN FRONT IS MEETING TODAY TO DECIDE ON
THE ABOLITION OF APARTHEID IN RHODESIA; WOULD YOU THINK
THIS WILL HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE SUCCESS AND POSSIBILITY
OF YOUR NEGOTIATIONS.

"A: I DON'T THINK I CAN COMMENT QUITE FRANKLY ON WHAT'S
HAPPENING THERE TODAY. I THINK IT IS VERY MUCH FOR THE
RHODESIANS TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHAT THEY WANT TO DO
ABOUT THIS ASPECT OF INTERNAL POLICY."

6. "Q: WHAT IS YOUR PROGRAMME IN SALISBURY FOR THE NEXT
DAY OR SO?

"A: WELL, I SHALL BE SEEING THE BISHOP, I SHALL BE
SEEING MR. SMITH AND HIS COLLEAGUES. I HOPE THEN TO HAVE
AN OPPORTUNITY OF GETTING OUTSIDE SALISBURY AND SEEING RATHER
MORE OF RHODESIA AND THE RHODESIANS, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE,
THAN I DID LAST TIME. IT WAS RATHER A HURRIED VISIT LAST

TIME. I REALLY HOPE THIS TIME TO BE ABLE TO FAMILIARIZE
MYSELF WITH THE COUNTRY A LITTLE BIT MORE AND THE PEOPLE.

"Q: WILL YOU BE VISITING AN OPERATIONAL AREA?

"A: NOT THAT I KNOW OF."

7. "Q: MR. RICHARD, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE THIS TIME TO
SPELL OUT A LITTLE MORE CLEARLY THE CONCRETE PROPOSALS THAT
YOU SAID YOU TALKED TO THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT?

"A: NO."

8. "Q: MR. RICHARD, YOU HAVE SAID WHEN YOU ARRIVED HERE
THAT YOU HAD FOUND THAT THE PARTIES CONCERNED WHICH YOU
HAD SPOKEN TO IN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, FOUND THAT THE
NEW PROPOSALS WERE THE BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS--IS THERE ANYTHING
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THAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE LAST 24 HOURS THAT WOULD ALTER
THAT FEELING THAT THESE NEW PROPOSALS DO FORM A FURTHER
BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION?
BOWDLER

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"A: NOTHING HAPPENED OVER THE LAST 24 HOURS WILL ALTER MY VIEW OF WHAT THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE TOLD ME BEFORE I ARRIVED HERE. I STILL FEEL THAT THESE IDEAS ARE A SENSIBLE BASIS FROM WHICH SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS CAN AND SHOULD TAKE PLACE--I THINK WHAT'S HAPPENED IN CAPE TOWN IN THE LAST 24 HOURS HAS CERTAINLY NOT CAUSED ME TO ALTER THAT VIEW--NOT ONE SCRAP."

9. "Q: MR. RICHARD, COULD YOU GIVE US SOME BACKGROUND, SIR, TO THE STATEMENT BY MR. ANTHONY CROSLAND THAT SOUTH AFRICANS (MIGHT INTERVENE?) IN RHODESIA. WHEN YOU WERE LAST ASKED YOU HAD NO BACKGROUND YOURSELF. HAVE THINGS PROGRESSED ANY FURTHER--DO YOU HAVE ANY BACKGROUND?

"A: WELL, I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND ACTUALLY HOW THIS STTRY STARTED. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. VORSTER--SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION WAS NOT RAISED AT ALL.

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ZQ: SIR, I WAS TOLD BY A SOUTH AFRICAN CABINET MINISTER THE FACT THAT YOU MUST HAVE LEFT SOUTH AFRICA WITH THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS A POSSIBILITY--I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARTICLE IN THE SUNDAY EXPRESS.

"A: IT WAS YOU WAS IT? (LAUGHTER). IT'S GOOD OF YOU TO OWN UP ANYWAY.

"Q: COULD YOU GIVE US SOME IDEA OF WHETHER YOU BELIEVE MR. COROSLAND'S STATEMENT WAS IN FACT A REALISTIC ONE?

"A: I THINK WHAT MR. CORSLAND WAS TYRING TO DO FRANKLY, AS I HAVE SAID MYSELF ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS--WAS TO TRY AND (POINT?) OUT (THAT?) THE GREAT DANGER, OF COURSE, IS THAT WARS AREN'T CONTAINABLE. IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FRANKLY TO ENVISAGE FIGHTING A SMALL SCALE WAR IN A SITUATION IN WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES (ARE?) AFFECTED. NOW, ALL I'M SAYING, ALL I THINK MR. CORSLAND IS SAYING, IS THAT YOU JUST CAN'T SPECULATE WITH NAY DEGREE OF ACCURACY, AS TO WHAT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT HAPPEN. BUT, IN ANSWER TO YOUR SPECIFIC STORY, DOES THIS RAISE ANYTHING, THE ANSWER IS NO."

10. "Q: CAN WE EXPECT TO SEE YOU HERE IN SOUTH AFRICA AGAIN OVERTHE NEXT FEW WEEKS?

"A: IT'S A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY BUT AS YET I CAN'T
SAY PRECISELY WHAT WILL HAPPEN."
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Message Attributes

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